

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Appln. No. 10/785,077
Docket No. Q78870

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1 and 5 are independent claims.

As an initial matter, the Examiner has acknowledged the claim for foreign priority and confirmed receipt of the priority document. In addition, the Examiner has considered the reference submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on February 25, 2004, as indicated by the Examiner's initials next to the reference number listed on the PTO/SB/08 form.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that claims 5-7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicant has added new claims 7-10, which are the same scope as original dependent claims 5-7.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Matthiesen et al. (US 5,497,756) in view of JP 8-22924 ("JP '924"). Claims 1-4 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Itoh (US 4,926,152) in view of JP 8-22924.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the recitation that a same chamber of said casing main body accommodates said part of said iron core, said primary coil, said secondary coil, and said power switch. This amendment is fully supported in the original specification at least by Fig. 7, which shows an *exemplary* embodiment in which the power

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switch 10, inner core 4, and coils are provided within the same chamber of the casing main body 1A.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of amended, independent claim 1 at least because there is no combination of the applied references that would reasonably teach or suggest all of the recitations of claim 1. For example, there is no combination of the applied references that would reasonably teach or suggest the claimed ignition apparatus in which a same chamber of said casing main body accommodates a part of an iron core, a primary coil, a secondary coil, and a power switch.

Matthiesen discloses an ignition coil assembly in which a return flux core 12 and a structural group that is formed by a main core 13 and primary and secondary coils are provided within a single housing 21. See Matthiesen at 3:3-10 & Fig. 1. Itoh discloses another ignition coil assembly in which the primary coil 1, secondary coil 2, and internal iron core 3 are provided within a case 5. An external iron core 4 is provided within a cover 58 of the case 5. See Itoh at Fig. 3.

The Examiner acknowledges that neither Matthiesen nor Itoh discloses that a housing accommodates a power switch. Therefore, the Examiner looks to the position of JP '924's ignition control circuit 9 in an attempt to make up for this deficiency.

JP '924 discloses an ignition coil device in which an ignition control circuit 9 is provided within the case 2. See JP '924 at Fig. 1. However, the ignition control circuit 9 is provided within a circuit box 40 that is provided within the casing 2. See Figs. 1(A) and 1(B).

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Accordingly, JP '924 does not disclose that a power switch is provided within *a same chamber* of the case 2 as the iron core 1, primary coil 29 and secondary coil 30.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of independent claim 1. In addition, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of dependent claims 2-4 at least because of their dependency from claim 1.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

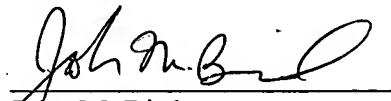
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